

## **RESCUE PARTNER POLICIES**

The Montgomery County Animal Services Division (ASD) works with local, regional, and national Rescue Partners. Animals often come into our shelter who are unsuitable for our standard adoption program, but for whom we hope to be able to achieve a positive outcome nonetheless. This includes animals with medical or behavioral needs, neonates, and senior animals. In addition, there are some animals who simply do not do well in a shelter environment, or have been unsuccessful in attracting the right adopter in the shelter and may benefit from the special attention and increased visibility a Rescue Partner can offer. Working with Rescue Partners allows us to save more lives, and we sincerely value these relationships. The following guidelines outline our Rescue Partner policies.

### **RESCUE PARTNER REQUIREMENTS:**

1. Rescue Partners must be compliant with all applicable state and local laws.
2. All minimum standards of care must be met or exceeded for animals under the care of Rescue Partners, including species-appropriate housing, nutrition, exercise, medical care, socialization, and grooming. Animals should be maintained in a healthy and safe environment with sufficient human interaction. Rescue partners will limit the number of animals per foster site, and will maintain an appropriate ratio of people to animals to ensure animals receive the necessary socialization, level of attention, medical and physical care. The ASD reserves the right to visit any facilities where transferred animals are being housed
3. Rescue Partners must provide a reference from a veterinarian who provides care for the organization's animals, as well as two references from shelters or other groups from which the organization acquires animals.
4. In the event that an animal has not been spayed or neutered by the ASD prior to release to the Rescue Partner, the Rescue Partner is required to have the procedure completed prior to placing the animal in an adoptive home, at their own expense. (Veterinarian recommended exemptions are permitted.) The ASD reserves the right, if it deems necessary to do so, to request proof of spay/neuter for an animal it has transferred to a Rescue Partner.
5. Rescue Partners must have in place adoption procedures which exclude adopters with any history of animal abuse or neglect, as well as those who intend to use the animal for experimentation or food consumption or for the sole purpose of protection or hunting. Rescue Partners must also prohibit adopters from performing cosmetic surgeries such as ear-cropping, declawing, de-barking, etc.
6. Rescue Partners may not use or promote use of aversive training or behavior modification techniques including, but not limited to, chain ("choke") collars, metal prong ("pinch") collars, electronic ("shock") collars, or employ trainers who practice such methods which may be physically or mentally stressful to the animal.
7. In the case of an animal exhibiting or having a history of behaviors that seriously impair its suitability as a pet, MCAS will require as a condition of release that the rescue partner have in place an acceptable positive-reinforcement based behavior remediation program for the behaviors involved.

## **TRANSFER POLICIES:**

1. The ASD reserves the right to designate if and when any particular animal is appropriate for release to a Rescue Partner. The ASD will not knowingly release an animal that poses a threat to public safety.
2. All available information on an animal's medical and behavioral history will be provided to Rescue Partners to allow them to make an informed decision on whether a particular animal is appropriate for their organization.
3. Once transfer of an animal from the ASD to a Rescue Partner takes place, the ASD is not responsible for any medical conditions the animal may have, either diagnosed or undiagnosed. The Rescue Partner assumes full responsibility for all medical needs and costs until such time as the animal is placed into a permanent home.
4. Upon transfer of an animal from the ASD to a Rescue Partner, the ASD has no further liability for any damages, physical or otherwise, caused by the animal to people, other animals, or property. The Rescue Partner assumes full legal responsibility for the animal.
5. Placement partners will be permitted to transfer an animal after the animal has been made available to the general public. Adoption to the public takes precedence over the transfer of animals to placement partners.
6. MCAS adoption fees are waived for all placement partners
7. A placement partner's privileges may be terminated for non-compliance of any section of this policy or any other reason MCAS deems appropriate.

---

I agree that I have the authorization to enter this agreement on behalf of the organization listed below, and that I have read and agree to all the ASD's policies outlined in this document.

Placement group name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Representative from group: \_\_\_\_\_ (print name)

Representative from group: \_\_\_\_\_ (signature)

MCAS Representative: \_\_\_\_\_ (signature)

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Revised April 2017



